

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5662
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2007
THEFT OF TELEPHONE CABLES
Gangwar Shri Santosh Kumar

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been an increase in the cases of theft of BSNL cable in the country, specially in the Uttar Pradesh during 2006;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, circle-wise;
- (c) whether these cases have normally taken place in rural areas where private operators have launched their services or in the process of launching such services;
- (d) if so, the number of such cases detected in rural areas during 2004-05 and 2005-06, year-wise;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to take up the matter with the State Governments to prevent such large scale theft; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

- (a) Sir, there has been an increase in the number of theft cases of cables of BSNL in the country during the year, 2006.
- (b) Circle-wise details of theft of BSNL cables during 2006 are given in Annexure-I.
- (c) & (d) Cable theft cases are reported both in urban and rural areas. However, it cannot be ascertained whether these are due to presence of private operators in rural areas. Circle-wise details of theft of BSNL cables in rural areas during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 are given in Annexure-II.
- (e) & (f) Sir, matter has been taken up with the State Governments as well as the police authorities to prevent such large scale thefts. In addition, following steps have been taken by BSNL to curb incidences of theft:
 - i) Regular patrolling of important cable routes.
 - ii) Diversion of routes of theft prone cable.
 - iii) Lodging FIRs at concerned Police Stations.
 - iv) Persuasion with the police authorities to check theft of cables.
 - v) Posting of security guards at cable dumps.
 - vi) Coordination with local bodies to minimize the theft.